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Current State of RML Network

Designation of the last two of a total of eleven Regional Medical Libraries has been announced at the National Library of Medicine. The two new RML's, located in Texas and Nebraska, are expected to become operational before the end of the current fiscal year, thus completing the network of RML's throughout the United States.

The South Central Regional Medical Library program was inaugurated with a grant award of $137,901 (covering a one-year period) to the Southwestern School of Medicine, University of Texas at Dallas. States in this region include Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. The South Central RMLP is a decentralized library service with a core staff located at the Southwestern School of Medicine in Dallas, and with MEDLARS services available from the MEDLARS station at the Texas Medical Center, Inc., Houston.

A grant of $200,000, covering a two-year period, was awarded to the University of Nebraska Medical Center for establishment of regional medical library services for the Mid-Continental Region. The states comprising this region are Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah.

With the initiation of service by Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, on January 2, 1970, the Southeastern Regional Medical Library program became operational. This program serves Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Grants to establish Regional Medical Libraries are awarded under the authority of the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965. The goal of the RML program, is to provide the most effective delivery of health science information to members of the health professions in each region.

Remote-Access Computer Systems: A Review of NLM's Experience

In November 1967, the Remote Information Systems Center (RISC) was established by NLM's Associate Director for Research and Development as the Library's first experiment in resource sharing through the use of advanced computer and telecommunications technologies. RISC had the following objectives: to acquire and demonstrate to NLM personnel the capabilities and techniques of remotely accessed time-sharing computer systems; identify capabilities and techniques having specific application to Library operational problems and train NLM personnel in their use; and support controlled experiments in selected NLM functional areas.

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NLM Gets Medical Juke Box

A new instructional system for the medical team, the educational juke box, has been installed in the Reading Room of the Library. Developed under the direction of Dr. Frank M. Woolsey in the Department of Postgraduate Medicine, Albany Medical College, it is an adaptation of a regular commercial juke box. The National Library of Medicine supported development of the medical juke box through funding from its Extramural Programs, under authority of the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965.

By pushbutton selection, any one of over sixty programs on varied medical subjects is available as instant instruction. Many are illustrated by synchronized slide transparencies projected on a screen that is an integral part of the unit. No record is over six minutes in length. Some programs have related literature available in the juke box to supplement the recorded instruction.

The juke box can also record questions which are later answered by mail, and collect suggestions for additional programs and evaluations of the current instructional materials.

Dr. Bayne-Jones Dies

Dr. Stanhope Bayne-Jones, U.S. Army Brigadier General (Ret.), distinguished medical scientist, educator, and administrator, died on February 20, 1970, at the age of 81.

Dr. Bayne-Jones was one of the Library's most renowned scholars-in-residence during the past several years. A graduate of Yale University, Dr. Bayne-Jones received the M.D. degree from Johns Hopkins University Medical School in 1914. During World War I, he served as a major in the Army Medical Corps and was decorated by the U.S., Great Britain, and France. He taught at Johns Hopkins University after the war, and then became the first professor of bacteriology at the University of Rochester's new medical school. In 1933 he became a professor at Yale, two years later becoming a dean. During the period 1922-1939 he co-authored with Hans Zinsser four editions of *A Textbook of Bacteriology*, the standard work of its day.

Dr. Bayne-Jones served in the Office of the Surgeon General during World War II and attained the rank of Brigadier General in the Medical Corps Reserve. From 1947 to 1953 he was president of the board administering the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center.

For the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare he served as chairman of the Secretary's consultants on medical research and education (1957-1958). He was also one of ten members of the U.S. Surgeon General's Commission on Smoking and Health,

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Journals Adopt IM Reference Style

The editors of 18 medical journals have agreed to use a uniform style of references based on that of *Index Medicus*, beginning in January 1970.

In an editorial in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, January 1, 1970, it was stated that "adoption of the *Index Medicus* style is validated by the practical fact that the *Index Medicus* is the reference system overwhelmingly used by this country's physicians."

The agreement to standarize reference style derived from a letter written two years ago by Miss Augusta Litwer, an administrative assistant at the University of Washington Hospital, Seattle, to medical journal editors, complaining about the need to retype a set of references, from ten to 200 or more, to satisfy the different styles of the journals.

In addition to the *New England Journal of Medicine* and 11 publications of the American Medical Association, the following publications will participate: *American Journal of Cardiology*, *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *California Medicine*, *Clinical Research*, and *Journal of Chronic Diseases*.

Personnel

Mr. Robert A. Walkington, formerly Chief of the Resources Division, Extramural Programs, was recently appointed to the position of Deputy Associate Director for Extramural Programs. He will continue his current involvement with the Regional Medical Library Program, and will remain as Acting Chief of the Resources Division until a replacement can be found.

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By the summer of 1969, the Center housed five different remote-access computer terminals capable of accessing virtually any one of the several hundred remote-access, time-sharing computers in the country.

It was learned that very few of the available remote-access computer capabilities had any direct applicability to the day-to-day operational problems of the Library. The most striking exception to this finding was the State University of New York (SUNY) bibliographic information retrieval system. The SUNY system allows the reference librarian to retrieve pertinent bibliographic references from a data base of MEDLARS citations (1967-1969) and the most recent medical books. During the first six months of 1969, the SUNY system was used an average of 20 hours per month by NLM Library Operations personnel, and, during the last six months of 1969, an average of 23 hours per month.

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Another example of remote-access capability that has proven useful to the NLM is a series of statistical programs that has enabled Lister Hill Center staff to project cost estimates essential to the design of the Biomedical Communications Network. The Lister Hill Center has also developed and effectively utilized a large, computer-based data bank of information describing the major characteristics of some 15,000 primary U.S. medical facilities. This data bank, the Medical Resources File, promises to be of considerable use in the design of the Biomedical Communications Network, and it is also of value to other DHEW agencies involved in health planning.

Several experiments have been performed in selected functional areas of NLM. Some experiments, such as the updating of MeSH via a remote-access terminal, have shown promise, but indicate the need for further development. The AIM-TWX experiment also traces its beginnings back to RISC; it will soon involve medical libraries in the evaluation of a highly sophisticated bibliographic information retrieval system developed under contract to the Lister Hill Center.

In July 1969, NLM decided to do away with the term "Remote Information System Center (RISC)," since it was associated with the development phase of the capability and implied that the most effective use of remote-access terminals is achieved by locating the terminals in a library communications center. Experience, however, has shown that remote-access terminals are most effectively used in a location convenient to the user's work station. Thus, the staff of the Lister Hill Center has been investigating the use of light-weight, portable communications terminals which can be situated in the most desirable locations in the Library.

As a facility, RISC has served its research and demonstration purpose, and what has proven useful has now become part of the regular operations of the Library; it is now administered by the Office of the Associate Director for Library Operations.

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which in 1964 issued the report suggesting links between cigarette smoking and cancer.

Throughout his career Dr. Bayne-Jones authored a number of books and articles in the field of public health and medical research. He received eight honorary degrees, and served as president of several professional societies.

In April 1967 Dr. Bayne-Jones presented to the National Library of Medicine five volumes containing the transcript of his tape-recorded memoirs. The volumes, of which only three sets exist, along with all of Dr. Bayne-Jones' papers, will be made available to qualified scholars and investigators in the Library, as stipulated by Dr. Bayne-Jones. The full record of this joint effort will also be preserved -- the tapes themselves, the typed transcripts, and supplementary original material -- together with Dr. Bayne-Jones' own records of a long and brilliant life.

DIA Meeting

Miss Winifred Sewell, Head of NLM's Drug Literature Program, recently attended a symposium on "Drug Information for the Medical Profession" at which she discussed products of the Library related to drug information. The meeting, held in Washington, January 18-20, was sponsored by the Drug Information Association, of which Miss Sewell is vice-president and president-elect.